

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

RHAYADER.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rhayader Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1944.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District	91,240 Acres
Estimated Population	5,000
Number of Inhabited Houses		...	1,265
Rateable Value	...		£115,163
Sum produced by a penny rate			£477 11s. 6d.

The large majority of the people working in the district are engaged in agriculture, including the raising of stock, notably sheep. Work in the district does not appear to be a cause of ill health.

Vital Statistics for the year.

LIVE BIRTHS—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	30	34	64
Illegitimate	6	1	7
	36	35	71

BIRTH RATE :—14.2 per 1,000 population.

Birth Rate for England and Wales during the same period was 17.6.

STILL BIRTHS—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	4	2	6
DEATHS—	Male	Female	Total
	33	31	64

DEATH RATE :—12.8 per 1,000 population.

The Death Rate for England and Wales during the same period was 11.6.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1
Cancer of Breast	0	1
Cancer of other Sites	1	1
Intracranial Conditions	2	4
Heart Disease	12	8
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	0
Bronchitis	0	2
Pneumonia	0	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	1
Ulcers of Stomach and Duodenum	0	1
Whooping Cough	0	1
Respiratory T.B.	0	2
Premature Birth	1	0
Congenital defects and Injuries at Birth	2	0
Violent Injuries	2	0
All other causes	6	7

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 1 year of age—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	—	—	—
	4	1	5

DEATH RATE of Infants under 1 year.

All Infants per 1,000 live births—70.4.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births—78.1.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births—Nil.

SECTION B.

General provision of Health Services for the district.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

One District Medical Officer of Health, part time, who also performs the duties of Public Vaccinator.

One Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities.

No change has been made during the year. These were provided by the County Analyst, Carmarthen.

Ambulance Facilities.

Conveyance has been made by the vehicles of the hospitals to which patients were sent. No change has been made during the year.

Nursing Services.

There has been no change during the year. Home nursing services have been provided by the district nurses, of whom four function in the district.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

No new clinics or treatment centres have been made available during the year. Tubercular conditions receive special attention at Llandrindod Wells through periodic visits of the County T.B. Officer. These take place fortnightly. Venereal cases can receive free attention at Hereford at clinics held twice a week.

Hospitals.

A well equipped hospital exists at Llandrindod Wells where hospital treatment is made available for the whole district, including Maternity Nursing. There is a registered Nursing Home for Maternity cases in the town of Rhayader, particularly intended to deal with normal cases from inaccessible parts.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1.

(I) Water Supply.

Some difficulty was experienced during the year with the quality and quantity of the Rhayader supply. Water was obtained from the river during the difficult period in August ; this was suitably chlorinated. The work of main laying at the Fron and Cross Gates was completed. A length of 2 in. asbestos main was laid in Caerherbert Lane, Rhayader. The construction of a well and laying of an asbestos main to Clewedog Cottages, Nantmel, was also completed. Newbridge Water Supply continued to work satisfactorily. A shortage at Llanyre supply was experienced at one period in the Summer.

(II) Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewerage system serving the central part of Rhayader is still unsatisfactory, and steps are shortly to be taken to remedy this.

To improve conditions during heavy storms a duplicate 12 inch glazed-ware sewer was laid from the inspection chamber at the bottom of Mill Lane, Rhayader, to the septic tank in the Werglodd Field.

2.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was taken in regard to pollution.

3.

(I) Closet Accommodation.

In March and April a survey of Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr was made and it was observed that there were six premises in Rhayader and four in Cwmdauddwr with pail closets. Steps were taken to obtain their conversion to water closets.

(II) Public Cleansing.

No change was made during the year in the arrangements for Public Cleansing. Refuse collection was made twice weekly in Rhayader and the village of Cwmdauddwr.

(III) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Sewers and sewer outfalls were inspected ; some defects and nuisances were abated. Informal notices were served where nuisances were observed or reported.

(IV) Shops and Offices.

Notices were served on two butchers during the year in regard to the storing and handling of meat. Improvements were effected in both cases.

(V) Camping Sites.

1. Four sites in the area were used for camping purposes during the year.
2. No licence was issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
3. The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the Summer of 1944 was 75.

(VI) Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken during the year.

(VII) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools, open to the public, in the district.

(VIII) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action was taken.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

No detailed figures are available.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Details are not available.

3. Action under the Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

(c) and (d) No action was taken under Sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

4.

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

No action was taken during the year in regard to overcrowding.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The Farms and Dairies in the District have been inspected, where milk is produced for sale. Some improvements have been carried out. Approximately one hundred visits were made to milk producing premises. Samples of milk were taken under the National Milk Testing Scheme.

(b) MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat inspection was carried out at the Government Slaughterhouse, Rhayader. The details are as follows :—

Number of Animals slaughtered	3,049
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Amounts condemned as unfit for food :—

Sheep and Lambs : Carcasses 8, Livers 291, Lungs 286.

Beasts : Carcasses 5, Livers 17, Lungs 7.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD, Etc.

No action was taken.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

No action was taken.

(e) NUTRITION.

No action was taken.

(f) SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN).

There are no Shell-fish Beds in the district.

SECTION F.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

No infectious diseases occurred in serious epidemic form. There was a mild epidemic of Measles, with 43 cases notified.

24 Primary Vaccinations were performed by the Vaccination Officer.

Notifiable Diseases, 1944.

Disease	No. of Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	2	1
Pneumonia	13	—
Erysipelas	2	—
Measles	43	—
Whooping Cough	12	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1

There were no deaths among these.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were two cases notified of Pulmonary T.B., one male aged 37 years, and one female aged 31 years.

I have the honour to be, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

J. POOLE, M.B., Ch.B.,

District Medical Officer of Health.

17th October, 1945.



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